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Racial Myths, Politics and Human Unity

K. V. Ramakrishna Rao, B.Sc., M.A., A. M. I. E., C.Eng (I)., B. L.,
Independent Researcher
Life Member of IHC, SIHC, TNHC, APHC, AIOC, Mythic Society etc.
25 (Old.9), Venkatachala Iyer Street,
West Mambalam, Chennai – 600 033.
e-mail: kopallerao@yahoo.co.uk

The Problem: Race, racism and racialism are European phenomena developed during the 17th century and blown into full proportions in the 18th century influencing scholars of various fields. The idea of race was created in the 17th century by European pseudo-scientists to justify apartheid, slavery and colonialism. In the 19th century, racist theories were combined with Darwinism to create eugenics, a movement that classified races as superior or inferior. Eugenics led to policies like selective breeding and human sterilization opposing miscegenation. All of sudden, the inspired scholars started advocating new ideology about the prevalence of physical and mental differences among the human beings based on the "new sciences" – anthropology (anthropometry, anthroponomy, phrenology, craniology, cranioscopy, craniometry), ethnology, eugenics, psychology and combination of anthropology with sociology, psychology, philosophy and so on.

The European politics mixed with the pseudoscience: The newly conceived political ideas of nation, country, state, communism, socialism, capitalism, federalism etc., were linked with the sociological concepts of language, culture, heritage, tradition, civilization and religion, and new interpretations given. Scientists started to play the role of historians and vice versa. Colluding with ruling politicians, histories of nations were written in such a way that natives were always conquered by invaders. However, the world wars shaked the motivated scholars and politicians and they consigned the race hypotheses and theories to dustbins. Though resolutions have now been passed in the UN, several times condemning racist ideologies, even now such discarded ideologies are exploited by some vested groups in different parts of the world. Therefore, it has become our duty to study such development and find ways to curb such anti-human ideologies for human unity.

The Development of Race concept: With the rise of national spirit, the western scholars were trying to trace their origins of culture, tradition, heritage and religion, but they found nothing common for them. So, the selected scholars of their group decided to take over and adopt the best from the then known world civilizations to form western entities of the above factors. The civilizations of the middle-east, Greece and Rome were graciously adapted and adopted, because of the obvious Semitic connection. But, some scholars saw their origins beyond this

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geographical limit in the east. Thus, the brand of European Indologists appeared in studying India through her ancient literature. The repeatedly appearing word "Aryan" fascinated them more for the creation of "Aryans" and "Aryan race". However, the western scholars assert that it was the west which taught everything to the world. Accordingly, their concepts were given a new twist with the calling down of the eastern factors. With the eastern terminology, they developed their own race ideology to show their assumed superiority. They accept that the physical and mental differences between individuals and groups alike are congenital and unchangeable, and this idea is present in the Old Testament itself[1]. The book of Genesis contains passages apparently assuming inferiority of certain groups to others[2]. Canaanites, Hivites, Amorites, Porizzites, Hittites and Hebusites were considered as "hewers of wood and drawers of water".

Theology turning towards colour: There is a reference about discrimination meted out against Negroes found in a stele raised by order of the Pharaoh Sesostriss III (1887-49 BCE) above the second cataract on the Nile[3]. The Greeks regarded all others as "barbarians". Similarly, pagans, heathens, pantheists, idolaters, polytheists, gentiles, kafirs[4] and other words were used to describe the groups that would not come under their respective social status / strata. It may be pointed out that all these expressions were used to denote non-Semitic and eastern religious believers with hateful disparagement. Thus, the Semitic concept about the origin of human races descending from Han, Sham and Japheth showed the way for race-scientists.

Race propounded and formulated based on hair, skin, jaws, check bone, nose, eyes, stature, speech etc: How race was evolved can be noted:

- The first "systematic" division of mankind into "races" was made by Bernier in 1684.
- Linnaeus, in his "Systema Natura" divided humanity into four races with their physical and mental characteristics succinctly described: European, Asiatic, African and American. Daubeuton with his measurement of head on the top of spinal column and tried to correlate the angle "will-power" of races.
- Camper added his facial angle concept in 1786.
- Gisbon and Bell announced in 1809 that the posterior edge of the occipital hole and the inferior edge of the orbits was a distinctive sign of the "negro race".
- W. F. Edward in 1829 gave the first and important twist from the colour-division to the shape-division.

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[1] Old Testament, Genesis: 9-25 to 27.

[2] the U. N. Commission of Inquiry (1953) into the racial situation in South Africa reported the Biblical background of inspiration for them to adopt "Apartheid" or "Christian caste system" with untouchability [Genesis. 9.25, Joshua. 9.21, 23 " 27].

[3] ***Race and Science***, UNESCO, New York, Columbia University Press, 1969, p.14.

[4] The concept of kafir depends on kufr i.e, impurity, status, unacceptable condition etc., and kafiri i,e., infidelity, heathenism, paganism etc., identified accordingly.

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- Blumenback's five divisions in 1781 were based on colour: Caucasian, Mongolian, Ethiopian, American and Malay.
- In 1842, Anders Retzius contributed his mite by introducing the cephalic or cranial index into the subject of race. And other race-scientists added the factors and measurements of hair, skin, jaws, check bone, nose, eyes, stature, speech and so on.

The 'temperament' of each race was compared with the above race-parameters to decide their respective 'intelligence'.

Biased Science helps Racism: the evolutionary theory had also added fuel to the fire of racism with the propagation of the theory of the 'survival of the fittest'. The Whites were very happy to accept this to justify their (White men's) burden.

- Gobineau's "Essay on the Inequality of Races" (1853-55) was almost read by all involved scholars of race propagandists and protagonists and its influence on their thinking was considerable.
- The year 1859 was marked with two important events: the appearance of Darwin's 'Origin of Species' and the foundation of the Anthropological Society in Paris under the leadership of Paul Broca, who started his 'skull measurements'.
- Like any other anthropologist of his times, he also, proceeded with the following assumptions: profession of faith (professional bias), the attributed relation of brain to the shape of skull, phrenological measurements and arbitrary allowance for the thickness of the tissue and hair. It is well known fact that no two anthropologists get the same figures from measuring the same skull.
- The mathematical methods were also misused to interpret the uncertain parameter into a mathematical entity and relating it to a human personality with the social attributions and historical antecedents, completely ignoring the other factors.
- In spite of the scientific knowledge, sociologists floated the 'myth of blood'[5] to aid and abet race-scientists.

And even today, there are politicians, ideologists and theoreticians, who swear by 'blood' to exite the masses. Thus, the pseudo-science developed with perfect scientific garb, with exiting Greek terminology: dolicocephalic, mesocephalic, brachycephalic, leiotrichi, cymotrichi, leuchoderms, xanthoderms and so on.

The Collusion of Scholars: mention has already been made as to how the scientific knowledge was misused for political purposes to achieve their vested interests. The scholars involved in the production, preservation and propagation of race ideologies played different roles in different countries to achieve their motivated goals. Particularly, the 'missionaries' invariably played the dual role of 'preaching gospel' and 'studying' native languages, manners, customs and religion. Thus, Barthalomaeus Ziegenbalg was the first Protestant missionary to come to India, but became the first German Dravidologist succeeding in creating

[5] M. F. Ashley Montague, ***The Myth of Blood***, New York, 1942.

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gulf between south and north Indians and sowing the seeds for 'Dravidian race'[6]. Abbe Dubois[7] was the champion of the Romanist cause, whereas in India, he poured venom on the Hindu manners, customs and ceremonies". English, French and German scholars damaged mutually their respective peoples interests by 'racial histories', written on the 'Nordic myth'[8]. Augustin Thierry (1795-1856) began interpreting English history in terms of race struggle between Saxon native and Norman invader. The same methodology was applied to the histories of colonies, to sow the seeds of division. As the history is the hand maid of practical and survival politics, Indian history was also been written by the British in terms of race struggle between Dravidian native and Aryan invader. They make much fuss about the chronology of history of other civilizations, particularly about Indian, but do not question anything about themselves. Benjamin Constant[9] in his famous pamphlet the "Spirit of Conquest and Usurpation in Europe" (1813) brings out the truth: "Our fanatical reformers purposely confuse chronology to kindle and keep up hatred, just as some had gone back to Franks and Goths to find pretexts in order to oppress in the opposite direction". Jacqus Barzun[10], while discussing about the professional bias, exposes the motive of the scholars clearly,

> ***"The historians Fauriel, Merimee, and Augustin Thierry were in touch with De Stutt de Tracy as late as 1821 and Buchez summed up characteristically titled 'Introduction to Science of History' (1833) the complex ideas and beliefs relevant to this study of race".***

Even now, taking the weapon of historiography, different ideologists like Marxist, Leninist and other historians try to interpret historical processes according to their own perceived notions. Rulers have always tried to manipulate history with their vested interests, but when they muddle humanity with race theories, people movements arise and check their ambitions.

The Response of Scholars after World Wars: Gohier (1916), Chamberlain (1916), S. Kennedy (1915), G. Ferrero (1917) and others clearly pointed out that the First World War itself was a racial struggle between the power mongering

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[6] Ziegenbalg's works, ***Genealogy of South Indian Gods: A Manual of the People of South India, including a description of Popular Hinduism*** (1869), ***Complete Description of Malabar Heathendom*** (1926), and Miscellaneous Writings (1930) try to differentiate South Indians and North Indians.

[7] The writings of J. A. Abbe Dubois were translated from his French manuscripts by Henri K. Beauchamp.

[8] M. F. Ashley Montague, ***Man's most dangerous myth: the fallacy of race***, Columbia University Press, New York, 1945.

[9] Benjamin Constant, ***Spirit of Conquest and Usurpation in Europe***, 1813, pp.121-122; 91n.

[10] Jacques Barzun, ***Race: A Study in Modern Superstition***, Methuen & Co. Ltd, London, 1938, p.61.

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nationsa, which wanted to annex more territories exploiting the myth of traditional boundaries. The consequences of the Second World War completely exposed the danger behind the racial myth. The contradictions of imperialist Europeans (and Americans), in spite of their so called western culture, heritage, tradition and religion also stand exposed, as such factors could not hold them together. They understand that no human group could clam any exclusivist superiority for any such material and non-material progress, as all human beings are involved in such processes. The misconceptions created by the anthropology and connected sciences are linked with certain selective ideas of genetics, bio-chemistry and technology. The lacunae in the assumed stages of evolution of man and progress in correlating with historical chronology are accepted. The attitude to consider the entire world humanity as a single entity has also been developed. The impossibility of racial discrimination is proclaimed in the UN Chapter, affirming in 1948. UNESCO urges it in the statement of 1950 not to use the term 'race', instead to use 'ethnic groups'. The statement of 1951 drafted by a group of physical anthropologists and geneticists clear many misconceptions with their scientific approach.

The Aryan and Dravidian Problems: when the propounders and propagators of racial hypotheses and theories suffered heavily, they cleverly buried them for a happy life, but the ghosts of "Aryans" and "Dravidians" are still haunting and daunting the people of world, particularly in India.

- Ever since, the advent of "Aryans" in Indian history, the word "Aryan' has assumed significant and far-fetching linguistic and racial connotations.
- Though the concepts of race and language are two separate entities, the "Dravidians" are still held only in the racial esteem against the so called "Aryans" in all religious, social and political interactions and processes.
- In the case of 'Aryans', it was the study of Sanskrit literature, particularly, the Vedas that played a crucial role in their invention, whereas, comparative linguistic study, but not the study of ancient Tamil literature, popularly known as 'Sangam literature', which has resulted in the production of "Dravidians".
- When 'Aryans' could be found not only in the Sanskrit literature, but also in the ancient Tamil literature, 'Dravidians' are not at all found in the ancient Tamil literature, but in the Sanskrit literature mostly in the geographical context[11].
- In the study of ancient Tamil literature to find out the meaning and position of 'Ariyar', it is observed that they were the people or kings of north of Tamizhagam and also of Tamizhagam considering the various descriptions of them[12].

[11] K. V. Ramakrishna Rao, ***Ariyar in the Ancient Tamil Literature***, Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Calcutta, p.165.
[12] K. V. Ramakrishna Rao, ***Ariyar in the Ancient Tamil Literature***, Seminar on the Aryan Problem, Bangalore, pp.215-224.

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Different people groups mentioned in the Sangam Tamil literature: Literary evidences of the ancient Tamizhagam with other epigraphic, numismatic and literary evidences of the contemporary kings of Maurya, Kalinga and Satavahana show that the exploits of Tamil kings were perhaps restricted to the boundaries of the ancient Tamizhagam and the defeat of 'Ariya' or northern king or kings refers to the defeat of Andhra king or kings. The word 'Ariya' was also used as an honorific title to certain professionals, besides the generic usage to denote the people of the land with boundaries of Himalayas, Kumari, East and Western oceans. As the names Kosar, Nandar, Moriyar, Tondaiyar and Vadugar have been used to indicate individual groups of north, whereas the name 'Arya' is used to denote the people or kings who were living or ruling immediately in the north of Tamizhagam, it is evident that no racial connotation was given to 'Ariyar' by the ancient Tamils[13].

The Sangam poets knew Ariyans but not Dravidians: As already pointed out the word 'Dravidians' (Dravidar) is not at all found in the ancient Tamil literature. The anthropometry of the ancient Tamils as has been described in the Pattupattu and Ettuttogai do not tally with the figures and description of Dravidologists. The linguistic and epigraphical study from ancient times to 18th century reveal an interesting fact that the words Dravida, Dramila, Dravida of Sanskrit, Dravida, Dramida, Damila of Prakrit and their forms and variations in other Southern Indian languages including Tamil denote only the language 'Tamil' and they are used as nouns and adjectives. But, in spite of this, there is much rhetoric about 'Dravidian race', 'Dravidian blood', 'Dravidian skull', 'Dravidian bones', and so on. About their origin also, the 'Dravidian protagonists propose and propound the theories that the came from the Egypt, Central Asia, Tibet and so on, ignoring the tradition, heritage, culture and civilization of the ancient Tamils. From the geographical description of the ancient Tamizhagam, five fold division of land and people, names of rivers, mountains, kings, cities and kingdoms, well defined boundaries and socio-cultural norms followed, it is evident that they did not come from outside or even outside boundaries as enumerated by the Tamil scholars.

Tamils were living in "Bharat": In fact, there has not been a single instance that Tamils had come from outside India, north or some other place. Though, Ganges and Yamuna have been mentioned, the river Sindhu has not been mentioned. Similarly, Patali (putra) and Ayodhya have been mentioned, but not the cities of Indus Valley civilization. This directly proves that the Tamils belonged to Tamizhagam, which was part and parcel of Bharat and also they were not driven away to the end of Bharat by the so called 'Aryans'. In deed, in 'Sangam' literature, it was never mentioned that they were defeated by 'Aryans; or driven away to southern end by them, instead, they are references, which

[13] K. V. Ramakrishna Rao, '***Ariyar' in Ancient Tamil Literature***, in The Aryan Problem, edited by S. B. Deo and Suyanath Kamath, Bharatiya Itihasa Sakalana Samiti, Maharstra, Pune, 1993, pp.75-80.

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describe how the kings of north were defeated by the Tamil kings and royal symbols of them were inscribed on the Himalayas[14].

The confession of Max Mueller on Aryans: In the case of 'Aryan race', Max Mueller confessed,

> "***I have declared again and again that if I say Aryan, I mean neither blood nor bones,, nor hair, nor skull, I mean simply those who speak an Aryan language……To me an ethnologist who speaks of Aryan race, Aryan blood, Aryan eyes and hair, as great sinner as a linguist who speaks of a dolicocephalic dictionary or brachycephalic grammar***".

But, unfortunately, the propounders of 'Dravidian race' theories had not repented and confessed about their invention, during their life-time. Therefore, they have to resurrect from their graves and confess,

> " ***We have declared again and again that if I say Dravidian, we mean neither blood nor bones,, nor hair, nor skull, we mean simply those who speak a Dravidian language……To me an ethnologist who speaks of Dravidia race, Dravidian blood, Dravidian eyes and hair, as great sinner as a linguist who speaks of a dolicocephalic dictionary or brachycephalic grammar***".

But, now-a-days not only politicians, but also historians talk and write about such contradictions and concoctions.

Archaeologists and historians say that the struggle of Indians was not bsed on race: Assessing recent archaeological findings, Jim J. Shaffer (1986) points out that the Aryan invasion of South Asia, widely assumed to have occurred some 3500 years ago, may never have taken place[15]. E. Erdosy (1989) not only points out that the so called 'Aryan race' is a myth, but also shows that 'Aryans' were indigenous with their homeland at "sapta-sindhu". In his notes, he however categorically says[16],

> "***'Arya' by contrast is an ethnonym given by the authors of the Rig Veda to themselves. It is used here in this sense***

[14] K. V. Ramakrishna Rao,, ***The Dravidian Problem***, Souvenir of ABISY, Second All India Conference, Warangal, 1992, pp.38-45.

[15] Jerome Jacobson (Ed.), ***Studies in the Archaeology of India and Pakistan***, Jim Shaffer's paper, **Cultural Development in the Eastern Punjab**, American Institute of Indian Studies, New Delhi, 1986, p.230.

[16] G. Erdosy, ***Ethnicity in the Rigveda and its Bearing on the Question of Indo-European Origins***, Journal of the Society for Asian Studies, London, 1989, Vol.5, pp.35-47.

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> ***alone, although with reluctance, in view of its recent history abuse***".

Asko Parpola[17] (1989), David Frawley[18] (1991), Michael Jansen[19] (1992) and other scholars have shown abundantly with archaeological and other evidences that all happenings enumerated in Vedas had occurred only in the ancient India and among the Indians. The noted historian Romila Thapar (1989) has also pointed out the fallacy of carrying over of these myths by Indian scholars and Educational curriculum[20]:

> "***The theory of Aryan race arose out of European preoccupations and preconceptions and was applied to the early Indian past during the period of the colonial interpretation of Indian history. It does not have its roots in Indian view of the past. Nevertheless, it has been accepted and has become an axiom of Indian historical interpretation. Whereas scholars working on the European past have questioned this theory, we in India hold fast onto it and those who attempt alternate interpretations of the sources are few and far between***".

But, as some vested groups are still holding such theories to exploit people, very often racism shows its ugly head at many places with new masquerades.

Camouflaged Racism: In spite of the stand taken by the UN, UNESCO and other world forums about 'race', we cannot simply ignore that such feeling is not there in the world. Racial discrimination against the people of Asian origin is blatantly prevalent in U. K., U. S. A., Germany, and other European countries, in spite of their 'civilized' and 'enlightened' societies. The racial segregation of whites, blacks and coloured still exists in South Africa. Hindus are hunted by dot-busters and blacks and other foreigners by Ku Klan Klan in USA. The Hindu and yellow phobias are evident in the immigration laws and procedures. Xenophobic, neo-nazi, anti-immigrant (anti-Asian etc) movements and restrictive immigration laws in some countries are nothing but camouflaged racism working subtly in all social, economic and political processes. Only the difference is the change of using terminology 'ethno-linguist', 'ethno-religious', 'ethno-social',

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[17] Asko Parpola, ***The Indus Script: a challenging puzzle***, World Archaeology, 17/3, 1986, pp.399-419. Also in his lecture delivered at Madras on Feb.27, 1989. In his speech at C. P. Ramaswamy Indological Research Centre, he delved at length on the struggle between the "Aryans" asserting that both Rama and Krishna were black.

[18] David Frawley, ***Gods, Sages and Kings: Vedic Secrets of ancient Civilization***, Motilal Banarasidas, New Delhi, 1991.

[19] Michael Jansen, ***Indus Valley Civilization (Die Indus-zivilisation)***, Dumont Buchverlag Kolu, Germany, 1986, with due acknowledgement to Max Mueller Bhawan, Madras.

[20] Romila Thapar, ***Which of us are Aryans***? Seminar-364, December, 1989, Nrew Delhi, pp.14-18.

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'ethno-political' instead of 'race', but the underlying ideology is as 'racism' resulting in many conflicts.

Ideological struggle: With the UN recommended changed terminology of "ethnic groups" in the place of "race, as we have seen, scholars, writers and journalists have now started writing about 'ethnicity', 'ethnos' and other concepts with the prefix of 'ethno'. Any honest man can notice the hypocrisy of them, as they are again trying to give the same pill with different coating to fool the world society. Today, the world is unipolar in the sense that the powerful USA is left in the world market with the disintegration of Communist USSR. However, the unification of Germany and national awakening of the third world countries have posed a great threat to the interests of USA. Next to Germany, USA has a special watch on India with obvious reasons. US have more Indian software engineers amounting to 30% of the working force. One Indian software scientist has entered NASA, only because of his excellence. The people of Indian origin are the fastly growing population there with economic prosperity. Therefore, it is quite natural for USA to threaten India with Super-301, NPT, ban on ISRO, Dunkel proposal and so on. Another strategic move of USA is to supply arms officially and secretly to encourage conflicts of all sorts anywhere in the world.

Modern factors sow seeds for separation: Previously, 'arm-struggle' was there for reduction, now, the struggle is for the sale of produced arms to the third world countries. But, why should they buy arms? Where can the get money? There, again attempts are made to destroy the social fabric of the third world countries by introducing sex, drugs and violence, through print and electronic media, orchestrated propaganda is carried on. All world forums are used for ideological struggle as a part of psychological warfare. Thus, in an ideological struggle, anything can be used or rather misused to excite masses, so that what cannot be achieved by actual war can be achieved by internal disturbances through destabilization.

Separatist tendencies leading to neo-racist fascism: The super power(s) with the help of secret agencies aid and abet separatist, religious, autonomist, linguistic, anti-immigrant, tribalist, and irredentist movements sowing seeds of session. These agencies also induce and provoke other social groups to influence and brainwash the intellectuals and decision making authorities. Then, much publicity is given to the oppressors and suppressors. Then, much publicity is given to the oppressors, instead of the oppressed. Self-determination, democracy, right to live, freedom, right to work and such other sophisticated expressions and ideas are thrusted, bringing the 'business of human rights'. When the third world countries have to face all these internal and external problems, ideologists would be enjoying their life with the selling of arms, drugs and sex, and getting commission. Under these circumstance, sane and unselfish people should work for human unity burying all ideological differences.

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Scientific studies should unite humanity: Biologically, man is a living organism; physiologically, all human beings have the same functions of respiration, digestion, excretion, reproduction and irritability and psychologically, they have the same common desires, urges, drives and ambitions. No doubt, they are affected by the hereditary and environmental factors in deciding the level of such psychological factors. But, genetically, the human species have 24 pairs of chromosomes and two extra chromosomes known as sex determiners forming additional pair. In the female, the sex determiners form as additional pair. In the female, the sex determiners form an additional pair the XX chromosomes and in the male, they are unpaired XY chromosomes. In spite of these facts, because of psychosomatic factors, men behave in a unique way. Thus, the behaviour of scholars, politicians and even nations would be an interesting study for human unity. With the increase of population, there has been social, economic and political discrepancies not only among the world countries but also within the countries try to exploit the third world countries for raw materials, labour and services. Super powers and powerful military countries bully with their superiority.

Towards Human Unity: In all these cases, the ultimate aim is to exploit natural resources and human beings themselves. As, because of the existing international law, they cannot interfere with other countries directly, it is evident that ideologies like race, ethnicity, capitalism, communism etc., are used to divide the humanity. Empty stomachs want food and not ideology. In this regard not only population should be controlled, but also the ideological deceit and psychological warfare. The international organizations like UN, UNESCO should not be just hand maid of USA or any other super power, but they should perform their duties independently and unscrupulously without any favor or fear. They should question the erring member-nations and take action against them. World opinion should also be created to support such organizations in crucial times to check the 'arrogance of power' of some countries. If the armed conflicts and other disputes are reduced and eliminated, they can devote time and energy for the world welfare schemes. If all the organs of UN exercise their powers in implementing the provisions of various charters, days are near for human unity.

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